



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KEN GIVENS
COMMISSIONER

REGULATORY SERVICES
ANIMAL HEALTH

November 15, 2006
Nashville, TN

To All Credentialed Persons,

Since our first credentialing class held during the 2003 Music City Veterinary Conference, there have been several events that has changed our lives and modified the response to emergencies and disasters. Events of 9/11, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease in the UK and the Exotic Newcastle Disease in Southern California have emphasized the need for identifying qualified persons to work with animals and agriculture during disasters. These events have also helped the local, state and federal response agencies to develop and implement programs for better response to disasters, namely the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the National Response Plan (NRP), revisions to the Tennessee Emergency Management Plan (TEMP) and the local Basic Emergency Operations Plan (BEOC). As persons credentialed to work with animals during emergencies and disasters, *each of us* must comply with NIMS, NRP and the TEMP. Animal care workers are considered first responders and NIMS, NRP and the TEMP are specific in the training required for first responders. The following are the required courses:

Incident Command System (ICS) 100 and 200

National Incident Management System NIMS IS-700

National Response Plan IS-800 is required for incident managers but optional for first responders

ICS 300 and 400 are required for incident managers but not first responders (classroom courses only)

In addition, Tennessee has collaborated with a number of Southern States in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that would make available trained personnel to states in need of such following a disaster. Trained personnel would be provided through the provisions of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), which includes provisions for compensation and liability issues. The MOA requires documentation of having successfully completed ICS 100, 200 and IS-700 courses. Therefore, as a credentialed animal care first responder, you must provide us with a copy of the course certificates in order to be compliant the these regional and national requirements and to retain your credentials and badge. There are several methods of obtaining the required courses:

1. Online courses (high speed internet needed)
 - USDA online courses which we are supplying the course CD
 - FEMA online courses which are accessed through the FEMA website: <http://www.fema.gov>
2. Face to face classroom courses provided by the local emergency management office
 - Other Department of Homeland Security certified ICS courses.

You should allow 2-3 hours for each module which includes a post-test that must be completed in order to print a certificate documenting that you have successfully finished the course. After completing the ICS and NIMS courses, you will need to send copies of the certificates to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture office or fax them to us at:

Dr. Robert Linnabary

Ellington Agricultural Ctr, Box 40627, Nashville, TN 37204 Phone (615) 837-5120 Fax (615) 837-5250

Tennessee Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 40627
Nashville, TN 37204
615.837.5250 fax

Upon our receiving your certificates of course completion, a new badge will be sent to you. There will be a year of issue on the back of the badge indicating that you are in full compliance with all of the required training.

During a transition of offices and personnel, your photo was inadvertently lost. For completion of a new badge, we will need a current photo of you. Upon receipt of your photo, it will be digitized and included in your new badge. Please let us know if you want the photo returned.

The MOA also requires *all* workers to comply with a *Code of Conduct* and is now a requirement for deployment in Tennessee and other partner States. After signing (and printing your name), this can also be returned to us by regular mail or by fax to the above address and fax number. It is our intent to have all updates made by April 1, 2007. Unfortunately, by not taking the required courses and signing the *Code of Conduct*, credentials will be suspended until we receive the necessary documents.

Thank you for being a member of the Tennessee Disaster Animal Response Team and we look forward to working with you in the future. As of this date, we have credentialed 1008 people to work with animals in disasters. If you have questions, please call Kelly Lang or me at 615.837.5120



Dr. Robert Linnabary
TN Disaster Animal Response Team Coordinator
Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Attachments:
USDA ICS training CD
Code of Conduct
DART application form